

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
POPULATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 19, 2001
MAG Office, Suite 200, Saguaro Room
302 North 1st Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bob Pazera, Chandler, Acting Chairman	Karen Keith, Goodyear
Anthony Farier, Avondale	*Horatio Skeete, Litchfield Park
James Crean, Buckeye	Tom Ellsworth, Mesa
*Usama Abujbarah, Cave Creek	Matt Holm, Maricopa County
Joanne Garrett, El Mirage	Tim Bolton, Peoria
Jesse Drake, Fountain Hills	Tim Tilton, Phoenix
*Terry Yergan, Gila River Indian Community	*Harry Higgins, Scottsdale
*Ralph Vasquez, Gila Bend	Rosa Herrera, Surprise
Maria Cadavia for George Pettit, Gilbert	Julia Gee for Mark Elma, Tempe
*Kate Langford, Glendale	*Jerry Stricklin, Wickenburg
Mary Hoy, Guadalupe	*Dick Gregory, Youngtown
*Duncan Miller, Paradise Valley	

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sam Andrea, Chandler	Rita Walton, MAG
Janeen Hollomon, Goodyear	Anubhav Bagley, MAG
Gary Smith, Guadalupe	Harry Wolfe, MAG
Anne MacCracken, RPTA	Peter Burnett, MAG
	Elaine Trammel, MAG

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Acting Chairman Bob Pazera.

2. Call to the Audience

There were no requests to address the MAG POPTAC by members of the audience.

Harry Wolfe introduced two new MAG staff members: Peter Burnett, a GIS Specialist and Elaine Trammel Information Processing Specialist.

3. Approval of Minutes of May 17, 2001

It was moved by Karen Keith, seconded by Jesse Drake and unanimously recommended to approve the MAG POPTAC meeting minutes of May 17, 2001.

4. Building Permit Completion Status Report

Harry Wolfe reported that building permit completions for the quarter ending June 30, 2001 will be due the first week of August 2001, but requested that the completions be forwarded to MAG as soon as possible. He explained that the completions would be forwarded to the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) for preparation of a State and County resident population estimate. Mr. Wolfe added that if jurisdictions do not forward their completions, it will reduce the County's population estimate as well as the individual jurisdiction.

Tim Tilton asked whether the building permit completions had been geocoded by MAG staff. Rita Walton responded that MAG was awaiting the completion of its updated Street file to geocode the addresses against it. Harry Wolfe said that he would e-mail to MAG POPTAC members the status of submissions.

Census 2000 Status Report

Harry Wolfe reported that the Census Bureau released Census 2000, Summary File 1 for Arizona yesterday. He noted that the file contains Census short-form information down to the block level of geography and that the data can be extracted from the Census Bureau's American Fact Finder website.

Tim Tilton commented that Table 14 is missing from Summary File 1. Table 14 provides the sex of unmarried partners. Rita Walton responded that the data may have been suppressed at lower levels of geography.

Harry Wolfe mentioned that The Census Bureau initiated the Count Question Resolution Program and the end of June and that the program provides local governments an opportunity to challenge their Census housing unit counts. He stated that corrections can be made for inaccurate boundaries, geocoding errors and coverage errors. He also said that the Census Bureau would not make adjustments for data that was not collected in the Census.

Mr. Wolfe inquired which member agencies were considering participating in the CQR Program. Representatives from Goodyear, Buckeye and Guadalupe said they were considering filing a challenge. Bob Pazera added that after evaluating SF 1 data, Chandler would decide whether a challenge to the Census was merited.

6. Preparation of July 1, 2001 Maricopa County Resident Population Updates

Harry Wolfe indicated that DES would be preparing a July 1, 2001 Maricopa County Resident Population Update that would be used as a control total by MAG in preparing July 1, 2001 Municipality Resident

Population Updates. He explained that DES prepares the estimate using the housing method. This method involves calculating a mid year population by adding to the number of housing units at the time of the Census, new units constructed between April 1, 2000 and June 30, 2001. He said that this was done by type of housing unit and that then an occupancy rate and persons per occupied unit was applied by housing unit type.

Rita Walton commented that DES uses other methods to prepare the State and County population estimates and then averages the methods to derive a State and County control total.

Harry Wolfe indicated that at the July 27, 2001 a meeting of the State Population Technical Advisory Committee that MAG needed to address the issue of the method that would be used to prepare the July 1, 2001 Maricopa County Resident Population Update by DES. He said that in the past that the County estimate had been adjusted using the Phoenix Metropolitan Housing Study, but that MAG's analysis of Census occupancy rates demonstrated that the use of the PMHS resulted in a less accurate estimate. He reviewed 2000 population estimates using various assumptions. He also commented that in the past MAG had applied occupancy rates and persons per household by unit type, but that since unit type information was not available at this time, MAG would need to use total units for the 2001 estimate.

Bob Pazera asked whether a motion was in order on the method to be used for preparing the Maricopa County estimates. Harry Wolfe responded that a motion from the POPTAC would be helpful. He indicated that there would be three parts to the motion. That:

1. The Maricopa County occupancy rate should not be adjusted using the Phoenix Metropolitan Housing Study.
2. The Maricopa County population estimate derived using the Housing Unit method should not be adjusted to a County control total.
3. Housing units by unit type should not be used to prepare the estimates until more research had been conducted on the benefits of disaggregating housing units by unit type.

It was moved by Tim Tilton, seconded by Tom Ellsworth and unanimously recommended to adopt the motion noted above.

7. MAG GIS and Database Enhancement Project

Harry Wolfe explained that MAG is undertaking a GIS and Database Enhancement Project to establish the base from which a new set of socioeconomic projections will be developed. He distributed a handout that identified the databases that had already been sent out for review and those that would be distributed in the coming month. He indicated that in July through August General Plan and Existing Land use files would be distributed in electronic and hard copy format as well as a GIS database of Development/Redevelopment Data.

Mr. Wolfe explained that the General Plan database contains the vision of the community on future development and that MAG wanted its projections to properly reflect that vision.

Jesse Drake asked what impact an inaccurate land use file would have on the projections. Harry Wolfe provided an example. He said that if MAG prepared a projection assuming one unit per acre in an area within a jurisdiction, and that the jurisdiction changes its general plan to allow 10 units per acre, then our projection would underestimate the population. However, Mr. Wolfe noted that MAG was urging that projections be done on a more frequent basis. Therefore, if some of the Plan assumptions changed, those changes could be reflected in the next round of projections.

Bob Pazera asked if MAG could provide tables along with the land use plans that identified acres of land use by land use type. Rita Walton responded that MAG would be happy to supply such tables or any other information that would facilitate the review of the land use coverages.

8. Input on Future MAG POPTAC Meetings

Harry Wolfe said that during the next year it would be crucial for member agencies to actively participate in the process for supplying and reviewing updated data for the preparation of MAG projections and reviewing the output of the socioeconomic models used to produce the projections. He asked for input from members of the MAG POPTAC on how to ensure more active participation from member agencies.

It was suggested that a survey be conducted regarding member agency technical and GIS status and contacts.

Harry Wolfe mentioned that one idea that had been suggested was for increasing participation in POPTAC meetings was to hold workshops for small groups of MAG POPTAC members to explain the modeling process, discuss its implications for local jurisdictions and to obtain feedback on issues related to the modeling. Other suggestions included holding an orientation meeting for members of the MAG POPTAC once a year and holding individual meetings with each member agency.

Bob Pazera suggested inviting staff members from each jurisdiction who were involved in the projections process to the workshops. He also recommended including information on the MAG Web Page.

Rita Walton noted that MAG was updating its Website to include more maps and that the page devoted to POPTAC matters could include additional information.

Tom Ellsworth asked if Mesa could use the MAG FTP site. Rita Walton said that MAG did not presently have such a site but would investigate establishing one.

Tim Tilton recommended that the MAG POPTAC meet in a larger room. Rita Walton responded that MAG staff would investigate alternative meeting dates and times in order to be able to use the Saguaro Room.

Harry Wolfe suggested using the MAG videoconferencing system to increase collaboration with member agencies.

Jesse Drake recommended considering holding future POPTAC meetings in more remote locations and using the videoconferencing system in conjunction with those meetings.

Rita Walton recommended more information sharing in future POPTAC meetings.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Harry Wolfe said that the next meeting of the MAG POPTAC was scheduled for August 16, 2001 but that he would be out of town. He suggested that an alternative meeting date and time be determined.

Rita Walton suggested that MAG staff investigate other potential meeting dates and times and communicate with MAG POPTAC members via e-mail to solicit input on alternatives.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.